

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A probe that comes into electrical contact with an object to be inspected when inspecting an electrical characteristic of the object to be inspected, the probe comprising:

a probe main body having a contact portion that comes into contact with the object to be inspected; and

a plurality of conductive materials each having a tip portion projecting from the contact portion of said probe main body,

wherein the contact portion has a contact surface that comes into contact with the object to be inspected, the tip portions are formed to project from the contact surface, a projection length of the tip portions being larger than a thickness of an oxide film formed on a surface of an electrode of the object to be inspected, and the contact surface is formed substantially parallel to the surface of the electrode and comes into contact with the oxide film on the surface of the electrode to function as a stopper for the tip portions when the tip portions penetrate the oxide film to reach the electrode.

7. (Previously Presented) The probe according to claim 6, wherein said conductive materials are buried in the contact portion and made of a material harder than the contact portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The probe according to claim 6, wherein said conductive materials are made of conductive diamond or nanoscale metal.

9. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a probe that comes into electrical contact with an object to be inspected when inspecting an electrical characteristic of the object to be inspected, the method comprising the steps of:

forming, on a substrate, a mold of a contact portion that comes into contact with the object to be inspected;

putting in the mold a plurality of conductive materials having tip portions;

forming the contact portion by filling conductive metal in the mold;

forming a probe main body including the contact portion; and

releasing the contact portion from the mold and making the tip portions of the conductive materials project from the contact portion.

10. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a probe that comes into electrical contact with an object to be inspected when inspecting an electrical characteristic of the object to be inspected, the method comprising the steps of:

forming, on a substrate, a mold of a contact portion that comes into contact with the object to be inspected;

putting in the mold a plurality of conductive materials having tip portions;

forming the contact portion by filling conductive metal in the mold;

forming a probe main body including the contact portion; and

releasing the contact portion from the mold and making the tip portions of the
conductive materials project from the contact portion,

thereby forming the tip portions to project from a contact surface that comes into
contact with the object to be inspected with a projection length being larger than a
thickness of an oxide film formed on a surface of an electrode of the object to be
inspected, and forming the contact surface substantially parallel to the surface of the
electrode, so that the contact surface comes into contact with the surface of the
electrode to function as a stopper for the tip portions when the tip portions penetrate the
oxide film to reach the electrode.

Summary of the Interview

Applicants kindly thank the Examiner for discussing this application in an interview on April 16, 2009. Applicants agree generally with the Examiner's description of the interview provided in the Interview Summary mailed April 17, 2009. In the interview, the Examiner agreed that the dual contact feature of the present invention is not taught by the cited art (*Jin et al*). The Examiner also agreed to withdraw the rejection if the claim is properly amended to further illustrate the dual contact feature.